

In the August 20, 2003 press release announcing the "LOCALISM IN BROADCASTING" INITIATIVE, it was stated that the low power FM service rules, adopted in 2000, are designed to foster a fundamentally different kind of community radio service. These noncommercial educational stations serve neighborhoods, schools, churches, and niche audiences.

However, this service rule may foster the opposite effect by forcing our local Christian radio station K-LOVE off the air because it uses FM translators which will reportedly have a lower priority under the proposed expansion of the LPFM rules.

K-LOVE is the only Christian radio station in our community. Unlike most commercial radio stations, K-LOVE's programming fosters wholesome family values and morality in music. At a time when immorality is running rampant on TV (e.g., Janet Jackson's behavior at the Super Bowl halftime show) and in secular music, losing K-LOVE would cause far more harm than any good that may come of new educational stations serving a very small niche audience. There are no other alternatives if K-LOVE is forced off the air. How would that serve "neighborhoods, schools, churches?"

Stations that are already serving the local public interest like K-LOVE should not be forced off the air by this new initiative. If you cannot add these new LPFM stations without adversely impacting existing, beneficial stations like K-LOVE, then you should abandon this initiative since it would cause more harm than good.